Technical Note TN180

Yellow box marking at signalised intersections

January 2019
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1 General

Traffic efficiency can be greatly affected if drivers do not follow the road rules and block intersections. This could lead to significant delays to traffic and pose potential risks to vulnerable road users, particularly pedestrians who may be crossing at the crosswalks.

Under Section 128 of the Transport Operations (Road Use Management – Road Rules) Regulation 2009, a driver must not enter an intersection if the driver cannot drive through the intersection because the intersection, or the road beyond the intersection, is blocked.

2 Existing Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices requirements

Part 2 Traffic Control Devices for General Use of the Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD) provides guidelines for pavement marking. Section 5.5.2.6 permits the use of KEEP CLEAR pavement marking to control the blocking of entrances and exits at side streets or property access points by queued traffic but limits the use of the pavement marking to the following:

a) to allow emergency vehicle access from its depot or station

b) where a blockage would create a safety problem elsewhere in the system, for example, vehicles stopping to turn right into a driveway causing a blockage at a nearby intersection.

3 Yellow box marking

Main Roads Western Australia trialled yellow box marking within signalised intersections in 2016 with positive results. The trial showed that the frequency of stacking events and their duration were reduced in both the AM and the PM peaks. Statistical testing undertaken on the combined data from the AM and PM periods at each intersection showed highly statistically significant reductions.

Yellow box marking to encourage greater levels of compliance by motorists at signalised intersections has also been used in Singapore and England.

4 Criteria for yellow box marking

Yellow box marking may be installed at signalised intersections where the following traffic conditions exist:

- where queuing within intersections occurs on a regular basis and associated congestion has a severe effect on network operations, or
- where there is an effect on the safety of pedestrians and cyclists crossing at the intersection.
5 Details of yellow box marking

The yellow box marking shall be marked within the signalised intersection as follows:

- The outline of the box shall be 300 mm wide.
- There shall be a single 200 mm wide diagonal line connecting the corners of the box marking.
- All line marking shall be yellow thermoplastic.
- The colour of the yellow line marking shall be Y12 Wattle or Y14 Golden Yellow.
- The marking shall comply with Traffic Control signs TC2309.

6 Notification on yellow box marking

Road authorities undertaking yellow box marking at signalised intersections must notify, prior to installation:

TrafficEngineering.Support@tmr.qld.gov.au

Notification must include the following information:

- names of roads forming intersection
- proposed date of installation, and
- name / position title of contact person.